sphere of influence would cover a radius of about 20-25 kms.

(c) State Governments have been asked to submit their proposals for selection of growth centres as early as possible, preferable by 30th April, 1989.

(d) Since the growth centres would be provided with infrastructural facilities of a very high order, they are expected to attract industries to backward areas.

New Industrial Policy for Punjab

584. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new industrial policy for Punjab is under active finalisation by the Central Government;

(b) if so, by when the said industrial policy for Punjab would be announced; and

(c) to what extent the new policy will give a new thrust and direction to the industrial economy of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) This is a matter falling within the purview of the State Government and it is reported that the State Government have recently announced a policy to further encourage industrial development in the State.

Closed Production Capacity in the Paper Industry

585. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the closed production capacity in the paper industry is increasing; if so, what is the capacity lying closed as on 31st January, 1989; and

(b) what steps Government have taken/propose to take to remove sickness of the paper industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) According to the records of Directorate General of Technical Development, 72 units accounting for a capacity of about 5.56 lakh tonnes, engaged in the manufacture of paper and paperboard, are not reporting production.

(b) Various reliefs and concessions have been extended in recent years to enable the paper industry in general to grow and improve its capacity utilisation and financial viability. In the Budget for 1988-89, a reduction of Rs. 100 per tonne in excise duty applicable to small paper mills and a reduction of Rs. 300 per tonne in the case of other mills using non-conventional raw materials had been granted. Financial Institutions are already providing assistance for modernisation at concessional rate of interest. A flexible approach is adopted by the Institutions with regard to the promoters' contribution and debt equity ratio based on merits of each case. Rehabilitation assistance is also extended by the Institutions to eligible units, which include rescheduling of term loans, reduction in working capital margin and interest rates.

Directions to the Public Sector Cement Units to improve their capacity utilisation

586. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged the public sector cement units to improve their capacity utilisation;

(b) if so, what are the details of production made by each of the public sector cement unit during the past three years;

(c) what steps have been suggested by Government to improve the capacity; and

(d) whether the targets of cement production are likely to be achieved during

the next coming year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The required information is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 25]

(c) The units have been advised to take the following steps to improve capacity utilisation:—

(i) Adoption of proper system for preventive maintenance to reduce downtime of the equipments;

(ii) Upgradation of technology;

(iii) Installation of energy saving devices; and

(iv) Setting up of captive power plants to meet part of the power requirements.

(d) The target of cement production for 1988-89 is 43.5 million tonnes which is likely to be realised.

Petrochemical Industries in Private Sector

587. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) The number of petrochemical industries which have been issued with a letter of intent in the private sector during the past two years;

(b) the number of petrochemical industries in the private sector which have converted the letter of intents into industrial licences during the past two years; and

(c) out of the above two categories how many are located in the Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala and how many of them are located in States other than the above four States?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Ninety Seven Letters of Intent have been granted for setting up of petrochemical industries, in Private Sector, during the past two calendar years.

(b) Thirty Nine Industrial Licences have been granted in the Private Sector, during the past two calendar years.

(c) Location of Twenty-one Petrochemical projects are in the Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala and remaining projects are in other states.

Setting up of Super Thermal Power Station at Talcher

588. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the super thermal power plant is proposed to be set up at Talcher in Orissa during the year 1989-90;

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in the setting up of the super thermal power plant at Talcher;

(c) whether the environmental clearance has been obtained; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the steps so far taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The proposal for the establishment of a Super Thermal Power Plant (2X500 MW) at Talcher in Orrisa by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) was approved by the Government in November, 1988. Land acquisition has been taken up and infrastructural development works are also in progress. The contract for the turbine generator package for the project has been awarded by the NTPC.